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## THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF INTERIOR SMITH.

Allotment Recommended, not to Satisfy the Whites' Greed but for the Indians' Good.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 29.—The annual report of Secretary Hoke Smith of the interior department deals largely with Indian affairs, and he presents some practical suggestions for their development.

Besides giving a sufficient history of the progress of the Indian bureau during the past twelve months, the secretary reviews the problem of effective work for the advancement of the Indians. He discusses the subject of education and of allotments of land in severalty, and urges that the education of the Indians should be for the purpose of fitting them to perform the particular responsibilities most likely to fall to their lot.

He presents the possibilities of the reservation as land to be improved and developed, to which the Indians should be taught to apply those modes of agriculture recognized in civilized life. Their education should fit them for this work and they should be led on with the assurance that the government dealing with these lands will treat these Indians with perfect honesty, and make no further effort to trade them out of it for the benefit of those who wish to settle upon it. Let the Indians keep their lands. Upon the subject of all of the members, he says:

"I do not question the advisability of allotting to Indians in

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severally, but I do most seriously question the propriety of this course before the Indians have progressed sufficiently to utilize the land when taken. The allotments should be made to the Indians in severalty for the good of the Indians, for the advancement of the Indians, not for the purpose of obtaining land connected with the Indian reservation to satisfy the insatiable desire of border men, who obtain it frequently, not for homes, but for speculation.

## TREATMENT OF LAND PROBLEM.

"I urge a treatment of Indian land based solely on the purpose of realizing from it for its owners the highest possible value. What is best for the Indians, to keep their land or sell it? If the members of a tribe have reached a state sufficiently civilized to be able to progress still further by selling a portion of their land, then the sales should be made, but the land should not be purchased from the Indians at the best bargain the United States can make. It should be sold for the Indians by the United States, the department acting as a faithful trustee and obtaining for the Indians every dollar it will bring.

"The policy of the Government should be to recognize the land of the Indian reservation as the property of the particular Indians who own it. The different lands should be studied to see how best their value can be increased. There are ample public lands in the United States for home-seekers; can we not be satisfied to allow to the administration on behalf of the Indians the little we have left them?"

With reference to the development of the resources of the agencies and the character of the em-

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ployes, he urges that each reservation must be treated in view of its resources as a separate business problem, and he says:

## SELF-SUPPORTING AGENCIES.

"Many of the agencies to-day, taking in connection the trust funds held by the United States for the Indians upon them, are already self-supporting. By a faithful effort to preserve the property for its real owners, and at the same time to compel the reservation Indians to work and labor for a livelihood, I believe that it is possible to make self-supporting nearly every agency. But to accomplish this, agents absolutely faithful and thoroughly capable must be placed in charge.

"If any army officer fills the place, he must do so with the enthusiasm of a soldier in line of battle. If a civilian fills the place he is unfit for the task unless moved by an earnest, zealous, inspired purpose to accomplish the noble work of helping to elevate a weaker race. Something of the missionary spirit should be in the heart of every employe at an Indian agency or Indian school. I cannot claim that the present administration has succeeded in getting people of the character described, but it is the earnest purpose of the Indian bureau and the department to study the employes throughout the entire service, to make proficiency the chief standard of retention in office, and to make apparent capacity the sole ground for new appointments.

"I believe it is possible to develop a complete, permanent, non-partisan Indian service, and I hope before the end of another year that such progress will have been made in the direction that its realization will be assured."

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## EDUCATION.

Among other things in connection with education of the Indians, the secretary says:

"In the management of Indian schools a definite plan for the Indians when such school is finished must always be in view, when practical results are expected from his education."

"Education should be practically directed with a view to the probable future of the Indian. If he is to remain away from his former home and to enter the struggle of life in our cities and towns, as any other citizen, then his education should be as broad and as liberal as possible. But if he is to return to the reservation, to the place of his birth, and to commence his active life in the development of the resources of the reservation, then his education should be directed especially with a view to the life he will lead upon the reservation and to the possibilities of the reservation itself.

"If the lands are agricultural, he should be taught the methods and mode of life followed by the ordinary American citizen engaged in agriculture. He should not be accustomed to a life far above it, to tastes much more liberal than would be possible for him.

"If his work is to be on the reservation he should be practically instructed to pursue similar to those which he is expected to follow, and he should be accustomed to the life which he will be able to sustain. I cannot help believing that by far the greater number of Indian children are to work out their future in connection with the resources of their

(Concluded on page 2.)

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